



Bidding at Auction

Purchasing a property is a big decision and can often be quite daunting. Auctions play a major role in how properties are sold in Australia so it is important to feel comfortable about bidding at auction. If you don't feel confident in bidding, have a professional do it for you.

Here are some tips that will help you in determining a bidding strategy

1. **Don't Strategise too much:** We conduct thousands of property auctions each year and I can tell you that each one is different. Don't get caught up in worrying about what will happen or how the bidding will unfold. Focus on what you are there to do and that is purchase a property. Be the first person to bid.
2. **Bid with confidence:** Many buyers sit back and wait. They want to get a feel for what is about to unfold. More often than not, it is the bidder that bids with confidence and without hesitation that walks away with the keys to their new home. If someone bids, come straight in with another bid. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Show your competition that you want the property at any cost.
3. **Set yourself a base limit:** If you are going to set yourself a limit make sure that limit has flexibility. As strange as that may sound, too many times I have seen bidders miss out on their dream home for \$1k or \$10k when the other bidder is at their limit also. In a very short time you will be happy for going that little bit extra.
4. **Don't Forget your Identification:** It is a requirement by law that you register for residential and rural property in NSW. The easiest way to register is with a drivers license. If you don't have ID then you can not register, so don't forget.
5. **What happens if a property is passed in:** Whilst this is not a right of law, in most cases the highest bidder will have the first opportunity to negotiate with the vendor at the reserve price. Make sure you are the highest bidder so you don't miss out.
6. **What is a vendor bid:** In NSW the auctioneer is allowed to make 1 bid on behalf of the vendor. A vendor bid must be disclosed by the auctioneer. It is not the reserve price and does not indicate a price at which the vendor will accept. It is used in different circumstances to either start the bidding, increase the bid to a level closer to what the vendors will accept or position a property at a price at which the vendor will take bids nothing less than.
7. **Why might an agent ask you to increase your own bid:** This is a common occurrence in today's market so don't feel uncomfortable about it. At some point in the auction, the estate agent may come up to you and ask you to increase your own bid. This may occur as your current bid may not be at a price at which the vendor will accept. Therefore you may need to increase your own bid if you wish to purchase the property.